

**U.S. Coast Guard briefing to  
DACOWITS  
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**Presented by:**

**CDR Tim Margita**

**Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF) Program  
Manager, Office of Specialized Capabilities (CG-7213)**



# Request for Information #4

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## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Gear for Women

The Committee continues to review and examine PPE available to service women. The Committee believes all the Services have made great strides in improving PPE to fit women. The Committee is interested in learning about the procurement, issuance, and timelines for obtaining PPE for women.



# Personal Protective Equipment/Gear – Career Specialties

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- Coast Guard PPE is mission-based and not specific to a rating or MOS (i.e. domestic law enforcement/fisheries, Combatant Commander req's, etc.)
- PPE examples include soft body armor such as NIJ Level IIIA as well as Level IV Ballistic Protection System (BPS)
- Rescue and Survival systems gear (i.e. personal flotation devices, dry suits, etc.)



# Personal Protective Equipment/Gear Supply Chain Process and Timeline

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- PPE is procured both through contracts with commercial vendors as well as open market, delivery can be days to weeks based on type and quantity of PPE ordered.
- Most rescue and survival systems gear is procured through open market and is gender-neutral. Dry suits and base layers are the exception as male and female versions exist and are procured on contract.
- Concealable soft armor is included in DHS Strategic Sourcing contract. It requires vendor to provide “armor that is either custom tailored for each individual or appropriately fitted using standardized sizing.”
- 30 days typically for custom sizes (male or female) within contract



# Personal Protective Equipment/Gear Training and Real World

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- Vast majority of operational PPE is also used to conduct training, exception is Level IV Ballistic Protection System (BPS) due to in-water training requirements.

\*\*Only CG members supporting Combatant Commanders and select Deployable Specialized Forces units wear NIJ Level IV BPS.



# Personal Protective Equipment/Gear

## Combat Issued Equipment

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- Few CG units are issued combat equipment, most PPE is designed for domestic, over-the-water operations.
- Mbrs deploying to a theater that requires combat equipment are issued during pre-deployment training.



# Personal Protective Equipment/Gear New and Changing Technology

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- 5-7 year contracts as part of DHS Strategic Sourcing Program
- CG offices managing this equipment offer a web-based PPE Problem Report to provide users ability to evaluate and alert programs of equipment effectiveness/ deficiencies.



# Points of Contact

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## Office of Specialized Capabilities (CG-7213)

CDR Tim Margita

Deployable Specialized Forces (DSF)

Program Manager, CG-7213

202-372-2625

Timothy.J.Margita@uscg.mil

